267. Spectrum of Acute Poisoning in North India

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Pattern of poison consumption varies geographically and in a particular place from time to time. We analysed 612 cases of acute poisoning admitted to our medical unit from January 2001 to June 2004. Age of patients ranged from 13 to 84 (mean 27.39 ± 10.55) years. There were 449 male and 163 female patients. Length of hospitalization ranged from 1 to 48 (mean 2.78 ± 3.73) days. Most commonly consumed poisons included alcohol -86, aluminium phosphide -72, sedative/hypnotics -70, stupefying agents -61, rat poison -40 and organophosphorus compounds -38, miscellaneous - 168 and unknown - 102. More than one poisonous substances were consumed by 35 patients. Among these, 21 consumed these poisons along with alcohol. Attempted suicide was the most common reason for poisoning (390), followed by accidental (152) and homicidal (70). Underlying psychiatric illness, predominantly depression was present in 17 cases. Ventilatory support was required in 37 cases, while 6 patients developed acute renal failure, 4 of which required haemodialysis. A total of 80 (13.1%) patients had fatal outcome, while 532 (86.9%) recovered. To conclude, aluminium phosphide, alcohol, sedatives and stupefying agents constitute the most common causes of acute poisoning in North India.

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